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Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.20

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010 and 66/200 of 22 December 2011 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and social and economic conditions,

Acknowledging that the developed country parties must take the lead in combating climate change and its adverse effects,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[2] Resolution 55/2.
[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

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Implementation"),[4] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5] the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention and of the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007,[6] and the outcomes of all the sessions, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7] the Mauritius Declaration[8] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[9] the political declaration on Africa's development needs[10] and the New Partnership for Africa's Development[11] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[12]

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[13]

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and also reaffirming that such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner,

Reaffirming also the financial obligations of developed country parties and other developed parties included in annex II to the Convention under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,

Reaffirming further that the Convention has a key role in addressing climate change,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving

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[4] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[5] Resolution 60/1.

[6] FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1 and 2 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2007/9/Add.1 and 2.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] Resolution 63/1.

[11] Resolution 57/2.

[12] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[13] Resolution 66/288, annex.

as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted in Durban, South Africa, by the Government of South Africa from 28 November to 11 December 2011;[14]

2. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emission of greenhouse gases continues to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard emphasizes that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority;

3. *Recognizes* the need to build on the existing political momentum with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention and to further advancing climate change negotiations;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban and its follow-up;[15]

5. *Notes with appreciation* that the Government of Qatar will host the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012;

6. *Encourages* Member States to approach the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Doha with a view to achieving an ambitious, substantive and balanced outcome, building on the progress made through the Bali Action Plan[16] and the Cancun and Durban decisions, accelerating progress towards the full implementation of those decisions through the ongoing negotiations at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, consistent with the mandates of and decisions on the three tracks of negotiations, and further developing and implementing the new processes and institutions agreed in the Cancun and Durban decisions;

7. *Notes* the significant political momentum towards adopting the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as a key deliverable at the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Doha;

8. *Takes note* of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventeenth session to launch a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties, through a subsidiary body under the Convention known as the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action;[17]

9. *Also takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall complete its work as early as possible, but no later than 2015, in order to adopt the protocol, legal instrument or

[14] FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1 and 2 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2011/10/Add.1 and 2.
[15] A/67/295, sect. I.
[16] FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1, decision 1/CP.13.
[17] FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1, decision 1/CP.17.

agreed outcome with legal force at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties and for it to come into effect in and be implemented as from 2020;[17]

10. *Further takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall plan its work in the first half of 2012, including, inter alia, on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of action, and support and capacity-building, drawing upon submissions from parties and relevant technical, social and economic information and expertise;[17]

11. *Takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to launch a workplan on enhancing mitigation ambition to identify and explore options for a range of actions that can close the ambition gap, with a view to ensuring the highest possible mitigation efforts by all parties;[17]

12. *Recognizes* the need to engage a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local levels, including national, subnational and local governments, private businesses and civil society, and including youth and persons with disabilities, and that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change;

13. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind".